



3726
PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. MRKS/0029
#158
and
N. Chong
7-9-03
NE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of:
Bernd-Georg Pietras

Serial No.: 09/762,699

Confirmation No.: 8491

Filed: May 10, 2001

For: Method and Apparatus for
Connecting Tubulars Using a
Top Drive

Group Art Unit: 3726

Examiner: Essama Omgba

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

MAIL STOP
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA. 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING 37 CFR 1.8	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on <u>25 June 03</u> with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.	
Date <u>25 June 03</u>	Signature <u>[Signature]</u>

Dear Sir:

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED MARCH 28, 2003

In response to the Office Action dated March 28, 2003, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on June 28, 2003, please enter this response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. Although Applicant believes that no fee is due in connection with this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 20-0782/MRKS/0029/AOP, for any fees, including extension of time fees or excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 10 and 13 without prejudice and amend the claims as follows: